

each ration card holder in urban and rural areas are decided by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) to (d). As regards distribution of sugar and kerosene to the urban and rural areas, it depends upon the local circumstances as appreciated by the State Governments and priorities fixed by them.

It is for the State Governments/UT Administrations to remove any disparity in the distribution of the PDS commodities between rural and urban areas.

[English]

Telephone Tower in West Bengal

*134. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal for installation of Telephone Towers in the State during 1993, 1994 and 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No such request for telephone tower has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise, Sir.

Professional Personnels in the Country

*135. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government maintains an updated data about various categories of scientific, technical and professional personnel in the country;

(b) if so, the available manpower in these categories as on March 31, 1996;

(c) the number of scientific, technical and professional personnel who have migrated from India during the last three years; and

(d) the level of technical skill of these migrants?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Scientific, Technical and Professional Personnel in the country would include doctors, engineers, architects, scientists, technologists, layers, management and communication experts. According to the data maintained by the National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS) the stock of Degree Holders in Engineering at the beginning of 1996 would be around 7 lakh and that of Diploma Holders around 11 lakh. According to the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) publication on Manpower Profile, it is estimated that there are 3,12,000 medical graduates, 15,670 dentists and 2,21,900 nursing personnel. As per information furnished by

IAMR, number of Post-graduates in Science at the beginning of 1996 would be around 6.67 lakh.

(c) and (d). No reliable information regarding the number of Scientific, Technical and Professional Personnel migrated from India during the last three years is available.

Development of New Tourist Spots

*136. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new tourist spots developed and of infrastructural facilities improved during the last three years to attract the international tourist traffic; and

(b) the names of the countries from which tourists are attracted to visit India in large numbers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) Identification and development of tourist spots is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments on the basis of specific project proposals received based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. During the last three years, the Buddhist tourist circuit in UP and Bihar have been developed.

(b) The top ten countries, excluding Bangladesh, from which foreign tourists come to visit India are U.K., U.S.A., Sri Lanka, Germany, France, Japan, Canada, Italy, Malaysia and Singapore.

Pending Programmes

*137. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the royalty programmes are much cheaper than the commissioned programmes;

(b) the number of programmes pending for approval in Doordarshan Kendras presently, category-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in each case;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities in selecting the programmes for telecast resulting in dumping of very good serials and telefilms there; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Prices/costs of royalty programmes and commissioned programmes are not comparable. Whereas in the case of former Doordarshan pays for